

17 AUG 1948

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EUROPE

1. FRANCE: Special powers bill viewed as constitutional change-- Premier Marie has expressed to US Ambassador Caffery his personal view that the Government's special powers bill now being debated by the French Assembly in fact constitutes an amendment to "the constitution of the fourth republic where it was weakest."

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(CIA Comment: Marie's special powers bill would strengthen the executive without causing a drastic change in the present structure of the French Government. Granting of increased powers to the executive long has been a major plank in De Gaulle's platform. If Marie succeeds in putting through such a measure, he will have reduced the effectiveness of one of De Gaulle's main arguments.)

2. GREECE: US policy on military assistance--The Department of State has informed US Embassy Athens that US policy: (a) contemplates assistance to the Greek armed forces sufficient to eliminate the guerrilla threat to internal security and to provide reasonable assurance against its reappearance; but (b) does not aim at building up Greece's military strength to resist an armed invasion "or for any other purposes." The Department points out that, in determining the reduction in future US military assistance to Greece, care must be taken that neither the Greeks nor the rest of the world gain the impression that the US has weakened in its determination to assist Greece in maintaining its independence and territorial integrity.

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State Department review completed

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